



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/122,740	07/27/1998	KAZUHIRO TOMIZAWA	614.1907	4749

21171 7590 10/09/2002

STAAS & HALSEY LLP
700 11TH STREET, NW
SUITE 500
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

EXAMINER

FLEURANTIN, JEAN B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2172

DATE MAILED: 10/09/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/122,740

Applicant(s)

TOMIZAWA, KAZUHIRO

Examiner

Jean B Fleurantin

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2172

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-17 are presented for examination.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119 (a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449, have been fully considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102(b) that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Watanabe et al. (US Patent No. 5,590,306) ("Watanabe").

As per claims 1 and 12, Watanabe teaches an application managing method for a case where a plurality of applications are stored (thus, an integrated circuit memory card provided with a plurality of data areas in which data is stored, which is equivalent to applications as stored) (see col. 3, lines 56-57), as claimed comprises the steps of forming a directory structure corresponding to said plurality of applications (thus, management areas in which management

Art Unit: 2172

information is stored for management of recording the data into the data areas, which is equivalent to forming a directory structure corresponding to said plurality of applications) (see col. 4, lines 26-28);

giving items of identification information to predetermined directories of said directory structure, respectively, said items of identification information being used for identifying said plurality of applications, respectively, said plurality of applications corresponding to said plurality of applications corresponding to said predetermined directories, respectively (thus, the management area including at least a header area in which header information indicating an occupation state of data area is stored a data identification area in which data identification indicating a format in read or write of data is stored, and a data allocation information area in which data allocation information indicating a continuity state between the data is stored and the host apparatus is operative; which is equivalent to said items of identification information being used for identifying said plurality of applications, respectively, said plurality of applications corresponding to said plurality of applications corresponding to said predetermined directories, respectively) (see col. 4, lines 56-65);

performing management so that an application of said plurality of application of said plurality of applications corresponding to a directory of said predetermined directory of said predetermined directories is selected in accordance with an item of said items of identification information given to said directory of said predetermined directories (thus, management areas in which management information is stored for management of recording the data into the data

Art Unit: 2172

areas and an integrated circuit memory card control apparatus to which the integrated circuit memory card is detachably mounted to store therein management information as well as the data, the management area of the integrated circuit memory card is provided with an identification area into which written are an occupation code indicative of recording of the data in the data area and a recording code indicative of an abnormal recording of the data in the data area and the integrated circuit memory card control apparatus provides such a control that when writing the data into the data area prior to data writing; which is equivalent to performing management so that an application of said plurality of application of said plurality of applications corresponding to a directory of said predetermined directory of said predetermined directories is selected in accordance with an item of said items of identification information given to said directory of said predetermined directories) (see col. 4, lines 32-48), when said directory of said predetermined of said predetermined directories is selected (thus, the management information corresponding to the extracted data is stored in the management area while the extracted data stored in the data area; which is readable as predetermined directories is selected) (see col. 4, lines 26-28).

As per claim 2 and 13, Watanabe teaches an application managing method, as claimed wherein said items of identification information comprise addresses of said plurality of applications, respectively (thus, management areas in which management information is stored for management of recording the data into the data areas, which is equivalent to addresses of said plurality of applications) (see col. 4, lines 26-28);

Art Unit: 2172

an address of said addresses is recognized, and thereby, an application of said plurality of applications corresponding to said address of said addresses is accessed (thus, the address latched in the address latch circuit 8202 is discriminated by the address identification circuit 8206, so that the memory controller 8208 is enabled under the control of the system controller 8212 on the basis of the result from the discrimination, to make access to the addressed location of the management area 300 of the first EEPROM; which is readable as an address of said addresses is recognized, and thereby an application of said plurality of applications corresponding to said address of said addresses is accessed) (see col. 23, lines 42-48).

As per claim 3, in addition to the discussion in claim 1, Watanabe teaches steps of referring to said application management table when a directory of said predetermined directories is selected, so as to recognize a starting address of an application of said plurality of applications, said starting address corresponding to an item of said identification information directories, and to access said application of said plurality of applications (thus, the address latched in the address latch circuit 8202 is discriminated by the address identification circuit 8206, so that the memory controller 8208 is enabled under the control of the system controller 8212 on the basis of the result from the discrimination, to make access to the addressed location of the management area 300 of the first EEPROM; which is readable as to recognize a starting address of an application of said plurality of applications, said starting address corresponding to an item of said identification information directories, and to access said application of said plurality of applications) (see col. 23, lines 42-48).

Art Unit: 2172

As per claim 4, in addition to the discussion in claim 1, Watanabe further teaches steps of storing size information at a starting address of each application of said applications, said size identification indicating a size of said application of said application of said plurality of applications (thus, information on a memory structure in the bank and a memory size, also recorded are bank header information including the using state of the memory in the data area; which is equivalent to said size identification indicating a size of said application of said application of said plurality of applications) (see col. 9, lines 26-29);

repeating detection of the size of an application of said plurality of applications from the size information store in the starting address of said application of said plurality of applications (thus, information on a memory structure in the bank and a memory size, also recorded are bank header information including the using state of the memory in the data area a bank packet identification representative of the attribute of the packet; which is equivalent repeating detection of the size of an application of said plurality of applications from the size information store in the starting address of said application of said plurality of applications) (see col. 9, lines 26-30);

As per claims 5-6 and 15-16, the limitations of claims 5-6 and 15-16 are rejected in the analysis of claim 1, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

As per claim 7, Watanabe teaches an application managing method as claimed, wherein when an application of said plurality of applications substantially deleted, an item of said items of identification information for said application of said plurality of applications is caused to be ineffective (thus, the respective digits of the information represented by plural bytes each are

Art Unit: 2172

subjected to addition in a vertical direction and the value deleting the carry of the addition, the least significant bit is allotted, alternatively another check code system capable of error correction; which is readable as said plurality of applications substantially deleted, an item of said items of identification information for said application of said plurality of applications is caused to be ineffective) (see cols. 18-19, lines 67-3).

As per claim 8, Watanabe teaches an application managing method as claimed, wherein when an application of said plurality of applications is updated, an application obtained from updating said application of said plurality of applications is added to said plurality of applications is added to said plurality of applications (thus, the packet association information in area 340 and the packet identification in the area 330 of the related packet are updated, those data are utilized to rewrite the temporary information in the area 324 of the header area 320; which is readable as said application of said plurality of applications is added to said plurality of applications is added to said plurality of applications) (see col. 30, lines 6-12);

an item of said items of identification information for identifying said application of said plurality of applications is changed to an item of identification information for identifying said application obtained from updating said application of said plurality of applications (thus, said management information updating means providing such a control that when writing the data into a data area prior to the data writing, the occupation code and the recording code are written into the identification area in a first significant condition and after having completed the data writing the recording code is cleared/reset from the first significant condition; which is readable

Art Unit: 2172

as application obtained from updating said application of said plurality of applications) (see col. 31, lines 59-65).

As per claim 9, Watanabe teaches an application managing method as claimed, comprises the steps of storing applications and data used by said applications in a series of storage areas (thus, storage area which is segmented into a plurality of clusters to manage the storage of data on an cluster-by-cluster basis the relationship of ones of those clusters in which a field of image data is stored; which is readable as storing applications and data used by said applications in a series of storage areas) (col. 2, lines 35-39);

managing the applications and data used by said applications stored in said series of storage areas (thus, a plurality of data areas in which data is stored and management areas in which management information is stored for management of recording the data into the data areas, and an integrated circuit memory card control apparatus to which the integrated circuit memory card is detachably mounted to store therein management information as well as the data; which is readable as managing the applications and data used by said applications stored in said series of storage areas) (see col. 3, lines 56-62),

wherein said series of storage areas is divided into program area storing said applications and a data area storing said data used by said applications (thus, a plurality of data areas in which data is stored and management areas in which management information is stored for management of recording the data into the data areas, and an integrated circuit memory card control apparatus to which the integrated circuit memory card is detachably mounted to store therein management

Art Unit: 2172

information as well as the data; which is equivalent to wherein said series of storage areas is divided into program area storing said applications and a data area storing said data used by said applications) (see col. 4, lines 6-18).

As per claims 10 and 11, Watanabe teaches a managing method wherein, when said applications are stored in said program area, said applications are stored from an end of said program area opposite to said boundary (thus, this card includes a relatively small capacity of first storage element provided with the management area and a relatively large capacity of second storage element provided with a data area in which data are recorded, the first storage element is provided with at least a header area in which header information indicating an occupation state of data area is stored; said applications are stored from an end of said program area opposite to said boundary) (see col. 5, lines 2025).

As per claim 14, the limitations of claim 14 are rejected in the analysis of claim 3, and this claims is rejected on that basis.

As per claim 17, in addition to the discussion in claim 9, Watanabe further teaches wherein said series of storage areas is divided into predetermined areas, one of said two predetermined areas storing the applications and the other of said two predetermined areas storing the data used by said applications (thus, this card includes a relatively small capacity of first storage element provided with the management area and a relatively large capacity of second storage element provided with a data area in which data are recorded, the first storage element is provided with at least a header area in which header information indicating an occupation state of

Art Unit: 2172

data area is stored a data identification area in which data identification information indicating a format in read or write of data is stored and a data allocation information area in which data allocation information indicating a continuity state between the data is stored; which is readable as wherein said series of storage areas is divided into predetermined areas, one of said two predetermined areas storing the applications and the other of said two predetermined areas storing the data used by said applications) (see col. 5, lines 19-30).

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Moronaga et al. US Patent Number 5,226,145 relates to a storage management system for a memory card. Tanaka US Patent Numbers 5,635,703 and 5,845,069 are related to card storage medium.

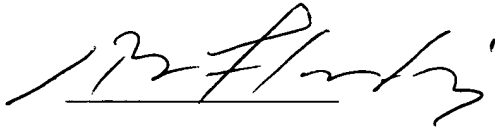
Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication from examiner should be directed to Jean Bolte Fleurantin at (703) 308-6718. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

If any attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mrs. KIM VU can be reached at (703) 305-8449. The FAX phone numbers for the Group 2100 Customer Service Center are: ***After Final*** (703) 746-7238, ***Official*** (703) 746-7239, and ***Non-Official*** (703) 746-7240. NOTE: Documents transmitted by facsimile will be entered as official documents on the file wrapper unless clearly marked "***DRAFT***".

Art Unit: 2172

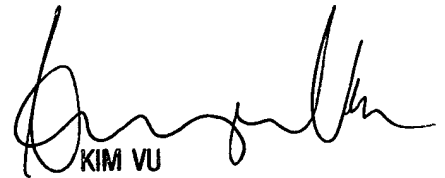
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 2100 Customer Service Center receptionist whose telephone numbers are (703) 306-5631, (703) 306-5632, (703) 306-5633.



Jean Bolte Fleurantin

October 3, 2002

JBF/



KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100